

Mission permanente
de l'État du Qatar
auprès de l'Office
des Nations-Unies à Genève



الوفد الدائم لدولة قطر
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة
جنيف



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الوفد الدائم لدولة قطر / جنيف

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, presents its compliments to the UN Special Rapporteur on the issue of human Rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe , clean healthy and sustainable environment, and with reference to the Special Rapporteur's **questionnaire** addressed to Governments to provide their contributions for the preparation of the upcoming *thematic report* on biodiversity and human rights, to be presented at the 34th session of Human Rights Council, pursuant to HRC resolution 28/11, the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar has the honor to **attach** herewith the **questionnaire** after filled-in by the Competent authorities in the State of Qatar.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the UN Special Rapporteur on the issue of human Rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe , clean healthy and sustainable environment, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, September 7th 2016



UN Special Rapporteur on the issue of human Rights obligations relating to the
enjoyment of a safe , clean healthy and sustainable environment

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Email: srenvironment@ohchr.org

Questionnaire

The Special Rapporteur would welcome answers to the following questions:

1. Please provide, in detail, examples of biodiversity-related legislation, policies and programmes that incorporate human rights obligations.

In regards to the legislative frameworks, Qatar had established the environment protection law in 2002 include in its first articles the aim to improve the standard of living, achieve the environment integrated protection, and conserve quality and natural balance thereof.

Also, Qatar had set in its environment protection law, the environmental impact assessment, which is mandatory to permit (Environmentally) any project with taking into consideration the society, the economy and other related aspects.

2. Please provide specific examples of good practices in the implementation of human rights obligations in biodiversity-related matters. For instance, such examples may include practices related to: guaranteeing procedural rights (e.g., rights to information, participation and remedy); monitoring human rights affected by biodiversity-related legislation, programmes and projects (e.g., rights to life, food, housing, health, water and sanitation, cultural rights, etc.); protecting the human rights of individuals and groups from adverse impacts related to biodiversity; promoting the enjoyment of human rights (e.g., rights to life, food, housing, health, water and sanitation, cultural rights, etc.); guiding business activities in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; and seeking remedies for victims.

Major example in this topic is the Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV 2030), which can be represented as a clear roadmap that guide Qatar towards a balance between its development needs and the protection of its natural environment, where it include an emphasis on establishing an effective legal framework that can serve as a guardian of the current and future generations.

Moreover, there is The National Development Strategy which aims to achieve the Qatar National Vision 2030 through the formulation of strategic sectorial plans and programs covering four main areas, namely, human, social, economic and environmental development as per mentioned in the national report that was submitted by Qatar in 2014.

3. Please specify, where relevant, challenges your Government has experienced in the integration and protection of human rights in biodiversity-related matters.

The main challenge that can be introduced is the relation between the acceleration of the development cycle and the population growth. However, as per mentioned above, Qatar is moving with stable steps towards overcoming such challenges due to it national development strategies that include all levels of stakeholders and authorities along with the national human rights committee in Qatar to overcome such issues.

4. How are the rights of those who may be particularly vulnerable to the loss of biodiversity, including but not limited to indigenous peoples, provided with heightened protection?

Although this aspect is not applicable in Qatar, it is good to reiterate the fact that was mentioned above that no project is permitted to be constructed without being environmentally assessed that includes the human factor as well.

5. How do you ensure that the rights of environmentalists working on biodiversity issues (environmental human rights defenders) are protected? What efforts has your Government made to create a safe and enabling environment for them to freely exercise their rights without fear?

There are few non-governmental environmental organizations and the government is supporting and had collaborated with such organizations along with individual environmentalists in many aspects. Besides that, Qatar had established the National Human Rights Committee, which is considered to be a legal entity that aims to the protection of human rights.

Submission of responses

Responses to the questionnaire can be sent to srenvironment@ohchr.org (encouraged) or addressed to:

UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment
Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division
UNOG-OHCHR
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Fax : +41 22 917 9006

Due to a limited capacity for translation, we kindly request that your responses to the questionnaire be in English, French or Spanish. We kindly request that your submission be concise and limited to a maximum of 5 pages (or 3,000 words).

The deadline for submission is **30 September 2016**.

Unless otherwise requested, all submissions will be posted on the OHCHR webpage and *made publicly available*:
www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SREnvironment/Pages/SREnvironmentIndex.aspx